

REMARKS

Amendment

New claims 21 and 22 are directed to a method of preparing the mixture of claim 1. If claims 21 and 22 are subsequently held to be withdrawn from consideration as being directed to non-elected subject matter, applicants request that these claims be rejoined upon indication that claims of elected group I (see below) are found allowable, pursuant to MPEP §821.04.

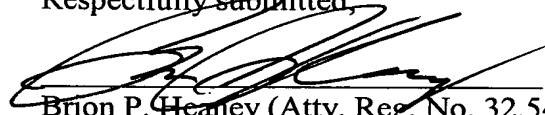
Election

In the Office Action of May 3, 2002, original claims 1-20 were subject to a Restriction Requirement. Specifically, restriction was required between Group I (claims 1-17 and 20) and Group II (claims 18-19). Applicants hereby elect Group I.

However, applicants respectfully request that the Restriction be reconsidered. Claims 18-19 are directed to a method of preparing precipitated hydroxylapatite (PHA). This subject matter is clearly related to that of claim 1 which recites a mixture of powders containing precipitated hydroxylapatite (PHA). In light of this clear relationship, it is respectfully submitted that no serious burden would be imposed in searching claims 18-19 along with elected claims 1-17 and 20. See MPEP §803. Thus, applicants request that claims 18-19 be examined with the elected claims.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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